(c) and (d) The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-Ministerial consultation process with a view to catalysing investment in the country and liberalizing the investment regime. Lock-in period assists in ensuring that the FDI brought into the country remains available for the projects in these sectors during the lock-in period and is used for the purpose for which it is brought, thereby preventing speculative investments in these sectors.

(e) Lock-in period in these two sectors has already been specified vide Press Note 2 of 2002 and Press Note 2 of 2005 respectively.

India's position in world's gold market

2727. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's position as the world's largest gold market could be under threat as demand slumped by 83 per cent to just 17.7 tonnes during January-March 2009 period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to regain the top position in the world in future; and

(d) the steps being taken to keep the gold rates affordable to women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) There is no firm statistics on demand and availability of gold in the country. However, rough estimates place gold demand in the country at 700-800 tonnes per annum.

(c) Most of the demand for gold in India is met through imports. In the Trade Facilitation Measures announced on 26th February 2009 by the Government, STCL Limited, Diamond India Limited, MSTC Limited, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Star Trading Houses (in gem and jewellery sector) have been added to the list of nominated agencies under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009, so as to facilitate availability of bullion to jewellery exporters.

(d) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US Dollar vis-a-vis other international currencies, etc. affect the gold price. The same holds good in India too. The movement in domestic price of gold in India in the recent period is broadly in tandem with similar movement in international markets.

Demand of Tuna fish in USA and the European markets

2728. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of demand for Tuna fish in USA and the European markets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bay of Bengal has the highest quantity of Tuna fish in the world;

(c) if so, in view of lack of basic facilities in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh the fishermen from Andhra Pradesh are not really reaping the benefits; and

(d) if so, what his Ministry is doing for providing facilities for export of Tuna fish to other countries of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The export trend of tuna from India to USA & EU during the last five years shows that there is a lot of demand for Tuna fish in USA and EU.

(b) Indian ocean including Bay of Bengal is one of the most potential zones for tuna, especially the yellow fin tuna;

(c) and (d) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have taken following steps for providing facilities for export of Tuna fish to other countries of the world:-

(i) MPEDA has engaged a master fisherman from Australia and converted two fishing vessels to tuna long liners for provided training to tuna fishermen.

(ii) MPEDA has assisted 26 vessel owners of Andhra Pradesh in converting their vessels into tuna long liners by giving them subsidy to the tune of Rs.197 lakh.

(iii) MPEDA has launched a pilot project to improve the quality of the tuna caught by the vessels by providing insulated fish boxes for carrying ice to improve the quality of the tuna landed after fishing.

(iv) MPEDA has an Action Plan for the development of Tuna fishery in Andamans including empowering fishermen for tuna fishing, developing landing facilities, developing packing facilities, develop handling facility and to have air freight facilities for tuna.

(v) MPEDA has assisted 100 fishermen by providing Insulated fish boxes for holding tuna and also provided two sets of vertical long-lines for tuna fishing.

(vi) MPEDA has taken the initiative to have a tuna packing facility at National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training with the assistance of National Fisheries Development Board at Visakhapatnam.

Recovery of exports

2729. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export scene is likely to remain grim this year too;

(b) if so, what are the reasons coming in the way of recovery of exports; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Quick Estimates of monthly trade statistics for the first three months of the current financial year, 2009-10 indicate significant decline in India's merchandise exports. While there are various contributory factors, global slowdown and recession, particularly in the developed countries, leading to erosion in demand, is a significant factor for the decline. The Government and RBI announced a number of measures in the Stimulus Packages and in